

Claims;

1. An overhead travelling carriage system in which an overhead travelling carriage is run along a running rail to convey an article between processing devices, the overhead travelling carriage system being characterized in that a stocker is disposed so as to freely deliver and receive an article to and from the overhead travelling carriage, the stocker being provided with an elevating space for a platform on which a transfer device is provided to transfer an article and a storage space in which a plurality of shelves are provided in a vertical direction to store articles, the elevating space and the storage space being arranged in a direction orthogonal to a direction in which the overhead travelling carriage runs, as viewed from above.

2. An overhead travelling carriage system according to Claim 1, characterized in that among the processing devices to which an article is conveyed, said stocker is disposed close to one of these processing devices which requires a relatively short time for processing.

3. An overhead travelling carriage system according to Claim 1, characterized in that said stocker is disposed in a gap between the processing devices.

4. An overhead travelling carriage system according to Claim 1, characterized in that said elevating space is provided immediately below the running rail.

5. An overhead travelling carriage system according to Claim 1, characterized in that an opening is formed at a top of said elevating space to transfer an article directly between the overhead travelling carriage and the platform.

6. An overhead travelling carriage system according to Claim 1, characterized in that a longitudinal direction of said stocker is orthogonal to the running direction of the overhead travelling carriage.

7. An overhead travelling carriage system according to Claim 2, characterized in that said stocker is disposed in the gap between the processing devices.

8. An overhead travelling carriage system according to Claim 5, characterized in that said platform is provided with a transfer device to transfer an article to and from the storage space, and the transfer device is provided with an engaging member that engages with a bottom surface of an article unloaded from the overhead travelling carriage, in order to position the article.

9. An overhead travelling carriage system according to Claim 8, characterized in that guide members are provided at laterally opposite sides of said platform to guide corresponding sides of an article unloaded from the overhead travelling carriage.

10. An overhead travelling carriage system according to Claim 9, characterized in that rollers are provided in a lower part of each of said

guide members to support the load of an article, and follower rollers are provided on each of the shelves in said storage space.

11. An overhead travelling carriage system according to Claim 10, characterized in that said transfer device is provided in a central portion between the guide members on said platform.

12. An overhead travelling carriage system according to Claim 11, characterized in that said transfer device is provided with a fixed guide fixed to the platform, a moving guide that moves forward and rearward relative to the fixed guide, and said engaging member that moves forward and rearward relative to the moving guide.

13. An overhead travelling carriage system according to Claim 12, characterized in that said transfer device is moved forward and rearward relative to said fixed guide by using a motor to drive an endless first transmission member and attaching said moving guide to the first transmission member, and said engaging member is moved forward and rearward relative to the moving guide by providing a second transmission member having one end fixed to the platform, an intermediate portion guided by a guide wheel provided at a tip of the moving guide, and the other end fixed to said engaging member, and third transmission member having one end fixed to the platform, an intermediate portion guided by a guide wheel provided at a proximal end of the moving guide, and the other end fixed to said engaging member.